

From: [Gray, David](#)
To: [Rebecca Hersher](#)
Cc: [Press](#)
Bcc: [Graham, Amy](#); [Grantham, Nancy](#); [Abboud, Michael](#)
Subject: RE: EPA
Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 5:18:00 PM

Hi Rebecca, Thanks for the note. Here is our latest update on air quality in Houston. One of the many preparations for Hurricane Harvey included the EPA, the TCEQ, and other monitoring entities temporarily shutting down several air monitoring stations from the greater Houston, Corpus Christi, and Beaumont areas to protect valuable equipment from storm damage. Since then, state and local authorities have been working to get the systems up and running again as soon as possible. As of Monday, Sept. 11, the TCEQ's air monitoring network is operational 100 percent in Corpus Christi, 96 percent in Houston, and 86 percent in Beaumont. The network is expected to be fully operational again by the end of this week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from Aug. 24 through Sept. 10, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. The EPA is conducting air monitoring using the TAGA mobile air monitoring bus in southeast Houston neighborhoods nearest industrial sources.

Off the record – We are continuing our work near the Manchester neighborhood and I do hope to have an update by the end of the week.

David

From: Rebecca Hersher [<mailto:RHersher@npr.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA

Hi David,

Thanks so much for your help in the days after the floods.

I'm doing follow-up reporting on air pollution after the storm. Is there any update on the EPA's monitoring of ambient air in Houston around the Valero facility? Has the EPA narrowed down the potential source of benzene in the air? If not, do you have a sense of when that will be more clear?

My deadline is the end of the day today.

Thanks,
Rebecca'

From: Gray, David [<mailto:gray.david@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 7:12 PM
To: Rebecca Hersher <RHersher@npr.org>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA

Yes.

From: Rebecca Hersher [<mailto:RHersher@npr.org>]
Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 5:45 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: [SPAM] RE: EPA

Hi Jennah and David,

Can one of you confirm whether the inspection of the San Jacinto Waste Pit site went forward today, and any results of that inspection?

NPR has a report published this afternoon, which we'd obviously like to update asap if there's any new info.

Thanks,
Rebecca

From: Gray, David [<mailto:gray.david@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 9:25 AM
To: Rebecca Hersher <RHersher@npr.org>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA

Statement – attribute to Liz Bowman, EPA Spokesperson

EPA teams are in place to investigate possible damage to these sites as soon flood waters recede, and personnel are able to safely access the sites. We have completed 30 rapid assessments and will start the remaining 11 today. We expect to complete this work soon.

Background information

EPA has conducted initial assessments at 41 Superfund sites in the impacted areas using aerial images, as well as direct contact with the parties responsible for on-going cleanup activities. EPA has determined that 28 Superfund sites in the area do not currently show damage or excessive flooding associated with Harvey. EPA determined that 13 sites have been flooded and/or are experiencing possible

damage due to the storm. Of these sites, two (Falcon Refinery and the Brine Service) have been inspected and it has been determined that they do not require emergency cleanup; although, additional sampling in the area will continue to be conducted. Eleven sites, including: Bailey Waste Disposal, French LTD, Geneva Industries/Fuhrmann Energy, Gulfco Marine, Highland Acid Pit, Malone Services, U.S. Oil Recovery, Patrick Bayou, Petro-Chemical Systems, Triangle Chemical, and San Jacinto Waste Pits have not been accessible by response personnel. Teams are in place to investigate possible damage to these sites as soon flood waters recede, and personnel are able to safely access the sites. The San Jacinto Waste Pits site has a temporary armored cap designed to prevent migration of hazardous material; the cap will be inspected as soon as it is safe for teams access the site. Based on forecasted river conditions, this inspection is planned for Monday, by boat. EPA has dive teams to survey the cap underwater when conditions allow.

Sent from my iPhone